

**Notice of Allowability**

Application No.

10/030,535

Applicant(s)

WEIR ET AL.

Examiner

Art Unit

Peter A. Hruskoci

1724

*-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--*

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1.  This communication is responsive to the amendment filed 1-5-04.

2.  The allowed claim(s) is/are 1,3,4 and 6-19.

3.  The drawings filed on 09 January 2002 are accepted by the Examiner.

4.  Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)  All    b)  Some\*    c)  None    of the:

1.  Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.  Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.

3.  Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

5.  A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.

6.  CORRECTED DRAWINGS ( as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.

(a)  including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review ( PTO-948) attached  
1)  hereto or 2)  to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.

(b)  including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).

7.  DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

1.  Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

5.  Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

2.  Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

6.  Interview Summary (PTO-413),

Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.

3.  Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.

7.  Examiner's Amendment/Comment

4.  Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit  
of Biological Material

8.  Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance

9.  Other \_\_\_\_\_.

  
Peter A. Hruskoci

Primary Examiner

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An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Kevin T. Mansfield on 2-17-04.

The application has been amended as follows:

In claim 1 line 3 before "polymeric" - aqueous - has been inserted, and before "and" - having a concentration above about 0.3% by weight - has been inserted; in line 4 before "," - having a concentration below about 0.3% by weight - has been inserted; and in line 7 before "." - of a non-homogeneous composition, to flocculate said suspended solids, and dewatering said aqueous suspension - has been inserted.

In claim 3 lines 3 and 4 have been changed to - (a) 1 to 80%, by weight of the concentrated aqueous solution of polymeric flocculant and, (b) 20 to 99%, by weight of the dilute aqueous solution of polymeric flocculant. -

In claim 4 lines 3 and 4 have been changed to - (a) 1 to 40%, by weight of the concentrated aqueous solution of polymeric flocculant and, (b) 60 to 99%, by weight of the dilute aqueous solution of polymeric flocculant. -

Claim 5 has been canceled.

In claim 6 line 1 "polymer" has been changed to - polymeric flocculant -.

In claim 7 line 1 "solution" has been changed to - polymeric flocculant solution -; and in line 3 "polymer" has been changed to - polymeric flocculant -.

In claim 8 line 1 "solution" has been changed to - polymeric flocculant solution -.

In claims 9 lines 1 and 2 "polymer" has been changed to - polymeric flocculant -.

In claim 10 line 1 "polymer" has been changed to - polymeric flocculant -.

In claims 11 and 12 line 1 "polymer(s)" has been changed to - polymeric flocculant -.

In claim 13 line 1 "cationic polymer" has been changed to - polymeric flocculant -; and in line 2 before "copolymer" - cationic - has been inserted.

In claim 14 lines 2-4 "polymer"(all) has been changed to - polymeric flocculant -.

In claim 15 lines 1 and 2 "polymer" has been changed to - polymeric flocculant -.

In claim 16 line 3 "passing a" has been changed to - passing said -; in lines 3 and 7 "polymer" has been changed to - polymeric flocculant -; and in line 7 "a" has been changed to - said -, and before " ." - to form said aqueous composition - has been inserted.

In claim 17 lines 1-3 "polymer"(all) has been changed to - polymeric flocculant -.

In claim 18 lines 1 and 2 "polymer" has been changed to - polymeric flocculant -.

In the specification on page 5 line 24 "polyethylene" has been changed to - polyethylene -.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Peter A. Hruskoci whose telephone number is (571) 272-1160.

The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 6:30AM-4:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Blaine Copenheaver can be reached on (571) 272-1156. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Peter A. Hruskoci  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 1724

2/19/04